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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/718,395 | 11/20/2003 | Craig A. Bianchini | CIN-100US1 | 9752 |
| 7590 | 09/26/2006 | | EXAMINER | |
| Craig A. Bianchini 18 Crawford Lane Nashua, NH 03063 | | | HUG, ERIC J | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1731 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/718,395 | BIANCHINI, CRAIG A. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Eric Hug | 1731 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 18 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 18 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 17, 2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Samuelson et al (US 3,843,473) and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Henricson (US 6,733,625) in view of Modell et al (US 5,470,481) and Samuelson have been withdrawn. It is recognized that Samuelson teaches treatment of waste streams in a bleaching process rather than in a wood pulping process, and that Henricson teaches treatment of washing streams for use in subsequent bleaching operations.

A new grounds of rejection is presented below. Allowability of claims 18 and 24 indicated previously has been withdrawn in view of the new rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 18 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fremont (US 4,226,673) in view of Fremont (US 3,758,405).

Fremont '673 discloses the removal of color bodies and other high molecular weight organic materials from effluents of paper and pulp mills, in particular from decker effluents of the unbleached pulp washing process. Filtration and/or ultrafiltration is the preferred method. Any one or more of the effluent streams can be treated. See particularly column 1, line 63 to column 21; column 2, lines 49-62. The streams are treated at the conditions at which they leave a particular operation (column 4, lines 27-34). Fremont '405 is a more general teaching of

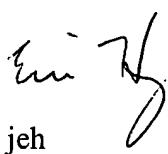
treating effluents using ultrafiltration. In this reference, Fremont teaches that the permeate from ultrafiltration (i.e., treated effluent) can be reused or recycled.

The teachings of the two Fremont references do not expressly disclose where the permeate from ultrafiltration can be reused. However, the use of decker washing effluent for displacing digestion fluid, for diluting pulp, and for washing of pulp either with or without oxygen delignification is known in the art, as disclosed by Applicant. The claimed processes are conventional, except for the removal of the high molecular weight organic materials. Fremont teaches removal of these materials before reuse, and teaches that treatment of the effluent streams can be done in their natural state, therefore it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to use the treated effluent streams in the same manner as one would use untreated effluent streams. The motivation would be to reduce the cost associated with discharging large amounts of waste water from pulp mill operations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


jeh